# Anita Lacy Youth Representative Executive Director Michigan Foster Education Resource Network (MI-FERN)



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# **Biographical Sketch:**

Ms. Lacy graduated from Western Michigan University in 2005 with a B.A. in History and Philosophy. She is the founder and current Executive Director of the Michigan Foster Education Resource Network (MI-FERN). The organization was founded in 2004 with an MTVU and Youth Venture Community Service Grant. The mission of MI-FERN is the increase the post-secondary educational opportunities of current and former foster youth in the State of Michigan by linking them to higher education resources and support programs.

Ms. Lacy's main interests are youth self-advocacy, post-secondary education for at-risk youth, and foster care issues. She also gives lectures and workshops to foster youth and foster care professionals about the importance of higher education for foster youth, trains them on how to utilize existing resources and supports. Ms. Lacy aged out of the Michigan child welfare system in 2002.

# **Organizations and Awards**:

Foster Care Alumni of America - Member Michigan Foster Education Resource Network - Director 2004 Youth Venture & mtvU Community Service Grant Winner 2001 Michigan Merit Award Recipient